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NEWS RELEASE

TRADES INVENTORY RELEASES

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FIVE YEAR FORECASTS

Construction activity in Nova Scotia will increase by approximately 5 percent a year for the next five years, according to projections released by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour.

While construction forecasts point to levels of increased activity, several notable changes will occur in the composition of construction activity. Building construction will increase its share of the market to close to 65 percent in comparison to recent annual averages of 57 percent.

This shift will be heavily influenced by such major undertakings as the proposed defence construction project.

Within the building sector, however, a marked drop in the levels of activity will be recorded by the residential sector. In the coming years, residential construction will drop dramatically to between 33 and 40 percent of total building construction. This is in sharp contrast to previous levels of activity which accounted for 58 percent of total building.

The demand for labour over the past number of years has leveled off at 20,000 per annum. The labour force has been growing by about a thousand workers a year resulting in higher than desirable unemployment levels. Coupling this level of surplus labour with the projected growth in the industry and probable increases in apprenticeship completions there should be sufficient skilled manpower to meet the needs of the industry over the forecast period.

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However, should a major project come on stream in the forecast period or a number of projects start up at the same time, one could anticipate shortages in several of the key trades. This, however, could be avoided if project scheduling is done such that a peaking of demand is avoided.

What is the Construction Trades Inventory

The Construction Trades Inventory is a statistical base which should give management, labour and government the capacity for improved manpower planning. Information from the inventory has yielded data on the quantities of skilled tradesmen by trade and type, by skill level and by geographic area, indicating the numbers of the total who are currently employed or unemployed. As well the trades inventory has developed a projective capacity which yields not only a current account of the total supply of tradesmen, but also future forecasts of demand and therefore, future utilization levels.

The Construction Trades Inventory is based primarily on the "Feasibility Study of a Proposed Construction Trades Inventory for the Province of Nova Scotia" prepared by D.C.H. Consultants Inc. This study was jointly funded by DREE (Nova Scotia) and the Nova Scotia Department of Development. The start up costs for the Project were funded jointly, by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour.

Who Benefits from the Information

Benefits from a construction trades inventory will accrue to management, labour and government if the information is used. For employers it should provide a basis for project scheduling, costing and planning which in turn should assist in ensuring maximum utilization of Nova Scotia's construction labour force. The inventory is seen as benefitting unions in that it will provide a basis on which membership levels can be planned in order to maintain a reasonable relationship between supply and forecast demand. For government this project is envisioned as a great asset to planning trades training as well as project scheduling.

Management of the Inventory

The program at this time is overseen by a tripartite mechanism consisting of representatives of labour, management and government. (See attached.) It is felt that this mechanism has contributed greatly to the success of the undertaking and as well ensure that the results of the inventory are distributed to all interested parties for use as a vital planning tool in the construction industry.

Further Information

Two or three times per year, the Construction Trades Inventory will be issuing a brief publication outlining the state of the industry. In addition to analysis of recent construction performance, the Bulletin will also deal with short term forecasting and periodically include subject matter of specific interest to those involved in the construction industry. The information found in the following tables is only an example of the type of information which is available. Not all information will be published, but will be available upon request.

Should you or your company feel that this information would be useful, and wish to receive the publication on a regular basis, please write or phone:

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November 5, 1979

TABULAR INFORMATION

TABLE I

CONSTRUCTION DOLLAR VOLUME ESTIMATES

AND

PERCENTAGE SHARES

1976 - 1981

	1976	%	1977	%	1978	%
Total Construction Dollar Volume	533,736	100.0	509,592	100.0	511,529	100.0
Total Building Const.	333,052	62.4	278,237	54.6	281,852	55.1
Residential	195,501	58.7	169,168	60.8	170,520	60.5
Industrial	12,656	3.8	19,755	7.1	13,811	4.9
Commercial	50,624	15.2	45,353	16.3	45,096	16.0
Institutional	45,961	13.8	28,102	10.1	34,668	12.3
Other Building	28,642	8.6	15,860	5.7	17,757	6.3
Total Engineering Const.	200,685	37.6	231,355	45.4	229,676	44.9
Marine	8,027	4.0	8,791	3.8	12,632	5.5
Roads	40,538	20.2	54,368	23.5	55,351	24.1
Water & Sewer	18,062	9.0	23,598	10.2	22,738	9.9
Dams	803	0.4	694	0.3	1,148	0.5
Electric Power	64,219	32.0	62,234	26.9	44,787	19.5
Railways & Tele.	20,470	10.2	18,508	8.0	18,144	7.9
Gas & Oil	25,286	12.6	22,904	9.9	28,939	12.6
Other Engineering	23,079	11.5	40,256	17.4	45,935	20.0

	1979	%	1980	%	1981	%
Total Construction Dollar Volume	566,902	100.0	587,283	100.0	603,254	100.0
Total Building Const.	334,472	59.0	352,370	60.0	370,398	61.4
Residential	119,089	35.6	125,819	36.5	123,946	33.5
Industrial	46,826	14.0	57,084	16.2	69,635	18.8
Commercial	60,539	18.1	68,007	19.3	75,932	20.5
Institutional	61,208	18.3	61,665	17.5	59,634	16.1
Other Building	46,810	13.9	39,795	11.3	41,251	11.1
Total Engineering Const.	234,130	41.3	236,088	40.2	235,269	39.0
Marine	9,365	4.0	12,984	5.5	15,998	6.8
Roads	56,191	24.6	60,438	25.6	64,934	27.6
Water & Sewer	23,413	10.6	21,484	9.1	19,527	8.3
Dams	4,214	1.8	4,250	1.8	4,235	1.8
Electric Power	89,203	28.1	63,701	27.0	35,819	15.2
Railways & Tele.	18,730	8.0	16,762	7.1	15,057	6.4
Gas & Oil	20,369	8.7	17,943	7.6	15,292	6.5
Other Engineering	12,645	5.4	38,526	16.3	64,407	27.4

Note: 1971 - Constant Dollars, small addition differences due to rounding.

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

CONSTRUCTION DOLLAR VOLUME ESTIMATES

AND

PERCENTAGE SHARES

1982 - 1983

	1982	%	1983	%
Total Construction Dollar Volume	619,528	100.0	636,107	100.0
Total Building Const.	390,303	63.0	410,289	64.5
Residential	121,318	31.1	117,621	28.7
Industrial	78,451	20.1	86,981	21.2
Commercial	83,134	21.3	91,494	22.3
Institutional	59,326	15.2	57,440	14.0
Other Building	48,074	12.3	56,753	13.8
Total Engineering Const.	232,323	37.5	228,998	36.0
Marine	20,444	8.8	23,358	10.2
Roads	66,909	28.8	67,325	29.4
Water & Sewer	16,960	7.3	13,740	6.0
Dams	4,182	1.8	4,122	1.8
Electric Power	34,565	14.9	64,261	28.1
Railways & Tele.	13,475	5.8	11,679	5.1
Gas & Oil	11,848	5.1	9,847	4.3
Other Engineering	63,940	27.5	34,666	15.1

Note: 1971 - Constant Dollars, small addition differences due to rounding.

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour

TABLE 2

MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS BY TRADE

FOR THE NOVA SCOTIA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL

1976 - 1979

Residential and Non-Residential	1976	1977	1978	1979
Supervisors	1241	1288	1351	1548
Carpenters	4158	3689	4040	3704
Pipefitters & Plumbers	1668	1536	1635	2108
Cement Masons	420	375	414	415
Electricians	1662	1501	1576	2096
Operators	2183	2704	3033	2904
Labourers & Helpers	5086	4711	5109	5286
Teamsters	768	926	1027	993
Insulators	259	182	186	280
Rodmen Ironworkers	329	312	346	436
Structural Ironworkers	322	284	285	441
Welder Ironworkers	47	47	37	67
Boilermakers	209	214	176	302
Boiler Welders	121	125	107	177
Millwrights	111	113	101	159
Pipe Welders	435	412	425	588
Bricklayers	—	—	—	332
Plasterer & Lather	—	—	—	68
Electrical Mechanics	—	—	—	7
Sheet Metal Workers	—	—	—	65
Roofers	—	—	—	36
Others	4949	4492	4807	4690
TOTAL	23,903	22,970	24,560	27,064

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour

NOTE: Small addition differences due to rounding.

MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS BY TRADE
FOR THE NOVA SCOTIA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL
1980 - 1983

Residential and Non-Residential	1980	1981	1982	1983
Supervisors	1502	1462	1507	1656
Carpenters	3781	3780	3889	4089
Pipefitters & Plumbers	2077	2068	2174	2436
Cement Masons	426	433	452	479
Electricians	2032	1996	2116	2129
Operators	2980	3066	3128	3185
Labourers & Helpers	5585	5446	5628	5919
Teamsters	985	1056	1100	1095
Insulators	288	244	256	302
Rodmen Ironworkers	443	459	488	526
Structural Ironworkers	398	352	366	446
Welder Ironworkers	48	27	26	48
Boilermakers	230	152	150	241
Boiler Welders	141	102	102	151
Millwrights	128	95	95	137
Pipe Welders	547	495	503	591
Bricklayers	351	345	338	328
Plasterer & Lathers	72	71	69	67
Electrical Mechanics	7	7	7	7
Sheet Metal Workers	69	68	66	64
Roofers	38	38	37	36
Others	4620	4640	4932	5453
TOTAL	26,939	27,213	27,746	29,955

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour

NOTE: Small addition differences due to rounding.

TABLE 3

Construction Industry

Number of Personnel by Trade - Nova Scotia

As of July, 1979

Trade	Mainland Nova Scotia (Union)	Cape Breton (Union)	Available Estimate (Non-Union)	Total Union Only
Carpenters	1,163	729	800	1,892
Labourers	996	835	1,100	1,831
Bricklayers	354	191	100	545
Plumbers-	300	90	300	390
Pipefitters	550	510	300	1,060
Electricians	600	260	900	860
Painters	385	193	900	578
Sheet Metal	285	94	600	379
Heat and Frost Insulators	100	90	80	190
Elevator Const.	78	-	50	78
Ironworkers	475	175	No Estimate	650
Millwrights	77	37	300	114
Boilermakers	205	100	No Estimate	305
Operating Engineers	750	200	No Estimate	950
TOTAL	6,318	3,504	5,430	9,822

Note: Non-union figures are best estimates.

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour

TABLE 4

PERCENTAGE EMPLOYED FOR THE

NOVA SCOTIA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

BY TRADE AND AREA

AS OF JULY, 1979

Trade	Mainland Nova Scotia (Union)	Cape Breton (Union)	Total Percentage Employed (Union Only)
Carpenters	60%	60%	60%
Labourers	69%	41%	57%
Bricklayers	84%	78%	82%
Plumbers/Pipefitters	58%/42%	100%/58%	68%/50%
Electricians	70%	80%	73%
Painters	66%	79%	70%
Sheet Metal	91%	66%	84%
Heat & Frost Insulators	95%	88%	92%
Elevator Constructors	100%		100%
Iron Workers	57%	54%	56%
Millwrights	64%		64%
Boilermakers	82%		82%
Operating Engineers	76%	25%	65%
TOTAL	72%	56%	66%

Note: Non-Union Figures are Best Estimates

Source: Construction Trades Inventory
Nova Scotia Department of Labour